

### Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-4, 8-13 and 20 to read as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

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1. (Currently amended) In combination, a printing apparatus and a print medium to be supplied to the printing apparatus, wherein the printing apparatus has a feeding means for feeding the print medium accommodated in an accommodating portion to a transporting passage facing a printing means and a separation means disposed at a downstream side of ~~said~~ the feeding means, for separating a print medium fed by ~~said~~ the feeding means from a stack of print media accommodated in the accommodating portion, the printing apparatus transporting the print medium fed by the feeding means along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, the print medium comprising:

a print area on which to print a desired image; and

a separable discard area provided in at least a front end portion of the print medium,

wherein a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion of the print medium is greater than a predetermined distance from the separation means to a contact portion of the print medium on which ~~said~~ the feeding means contacts the print medium, and

both of the separation means and the feeding means are in contact with the separable discard area when the separation means contacts the front end portion of the print medium fed by the feeding means.

2. (Currently amended) In combination, a printing apparatus and a print medium to be supplied to the printing apparatus, wherein the printing apparatus has a transport means for transporting the print medium along a transporting passage facing a printing means and a discharge means arranged downstream of the transport means, and at least one of the transport means and the discharge means transports the print medium along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, the discharge means being positioned a predetermined distance from a rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means, the print medium comprising:

a print area on which to print a desired image; and

a separable discard area provided in at least a front end portion of the print medium,

wherein a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion of the print medium is greater than the predetermined distance from the rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the discharge means, and

the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area,

the printing means performs printing onto the print medium at a position between the transport means and the discharge means, and

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the frontmost end of the print medium and is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area.

3. (Currently amended) In combination, a printing apparatus and a print medium to be supplied to the printing apparatus, wherein the printing apparatus has a transport means for transporting the print medium along a transporting passage facing a printing means and a discharge means arranged downstream of the transport means, and at least one of the transport means and the discharge means transports the print medium along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, the transport means being positioned a predetermined distance from a frontmost effective printing portion of the printing means, the print medium comprising:

a print area on which to print a desired image; and

a separable discard area provided in at least a rear end portion of the print medium,

wherein a width of the discard area provided in the rear end portion of the print medium is greater than the predetermined distance from the frontmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the transport means, and

the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area.

the printing means performs printing onto the print medium at a location between the transport means and the discharge means, and

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the rearmost end of the print medium and is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area.

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4. (Currently amended) In combination, a printing apparatus and a print medium to be supplied to the printing apparatus, wherein the printing apparatus has a feeding means for feeding the print medium accommodated in an accommodating portion to a transporting passage facing a printing means, a separation means disposed at a downstream side of the feeding means, for separating the print medium fed by the feeding means from a stack of print media accommodated in the accommodating portion, a transport means for transporting the print medium along a transporting passage and a discharge means arranged downstream of the transport means, and wherein after the print medium has been fed to the transporting passage, at least one of the transport means and the discharge means transports the print medium along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, the separation means being positioned a first predetermined distance from a contact portion of the print medium on which the feeding means contacts the print medium, the discharge means being positioned a second predetermined distance from a rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means,

and the transport means being positioned a third predetermined distance from a frontmost effective printing portion of the printing means, the print medium comprising:

a print area on which to print a desired image; and

a separable discard area provided in at least a front end portion and a rear end portion of the print medium,

wherein a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion of the print medium is greater than the first predetermined distance from the separation means to the contact portion of the print medium on which the feeding means contacts the print medium or the second predetermined distance from the rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the discharge means, whichever is a greater distance, and

wherein a width of the discard area provided in the rear end portion of the print medium is greater than the third predetermined distance from the frontmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the transport means, the printing means forming an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area,

both of the separation means and the feeding means are in contact with the separable discard area when the separation means contacts the front end portion of the print medium fed by the feeding means,

the printing means performs printing onto the print medium at a location between the transport means and the discharge means,

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the frontmost end of the print medium and

is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area, and

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the rearmost end of the print medium and is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area.

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5. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the print medium has a plurality of print areas and the widths of discard areas in the front and rear end portions of the print medium are greater than that of a discard area between the print areas.

6. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the print medium has a plurality of print areas and widths of discard areas in left and right end portions of the print medium are greater than a length in the transport direction of the discard area between the print areas.

7. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the print medium has a plurality of print areas and separable discard areas before and after each print area, a discard area in a front end portion of the print medium and a discard area in a rear end portion of the print medium are set equal in width, and a discard area in a left

end portion of the print medium and a discard area in a right end portion of the print medium are set equal in width.

8. (Currently amended) A printing apparatus comprising:

an accommodating portion for accommodating a print medium, the print medium having a print area on which to print an image and a separable discard area in at least a front end portion thereof;

feeding means facing the accommodating portion for feeding the print medium stacked in the accommodating portion to a transporting passage facing a printing means; and

separation means disposed at a downstream side of the feeding means, for separating a print medium fed by the feeding means from a stack of print media accommodated in the accommodating portion,

wherein the print medium fed by the feeding means is transported along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, and

wherein a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion of the print medium is greater than the predetermined distance from the separation means to a contact portion of the print medium on which the feeding means contacts the print medium, and

both of the separation means and the feeding means are in contact with the separable discard area when the separation means contacts the frontmost end of the print medium fed by the feeding means.

9. (Currently amended) A printing apparatus comprising:

transport means for transporting a print medium along a transporting passage facing a printing means, the print medium having a print area on which to print an image and a separable discard area provided in at least a front end portion thereof; and

discharge means arranged downstream of the transport means,

wherein at least one of the transport means and the discharge means transports the print medium along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, and

wherein a distance from a rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the discharge means is less than a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion of the print medium and the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area,

the printing means performs printing onto the print medium at a position between the transport means and the discharge means, and

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the frontmost end of the print medium and is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area.

10. (Currently amended) A printing apparatus comprising:



transport means for transporting a print medium along a transporting passage facing a printing means, the print medium having a print area on which to print an image and a discard area separably provided in at least a rear end portion thereof; and

discharge means arranged downstream of the transport means,

wherein at least one of the transport means and the discharge means transports the print medium along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, and

wherein a distance from a frontmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the transport means is less than a width of the discard area provided in the rear end portion of the print medium and the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area,

the printing means performs printing onto the print medium at a location between the transport means and the discharge means, and

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the rearmost end of the print medium and is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area.

11. (Currently amended) A printing apparatus comprising:

feeding means for feeding a print medium to a transporting passage facing a predetermined printing means, the print medium having a print area on which to print an

image and a discard area separably provided in a front end portion and a rear end portion thereof;

transport means for transporting the print medium along the transporting passage; and

discharge means arranged downstream of the transport means,

wherein after the print medium accommodated in an accommodating portion has been fed to the transporting passage, at least one of the transport means and the discharge means transports the print medium along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium,

wherein a distance from a rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the discharge means or a distance from a frontmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the transport means, whichever is a greater distance, is less than a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion of the print medium, and the distance from the frontmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the transport means is less than a width of the discard area provided in the rear end portion of the print medium and the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area,

the printing means performs printing onto the print medium at a location between the transport means and the discharge means,

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the frontmost end of the print medium and

is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area, and

the print medium is restrained by both of the transport means and the discharge means when the printing means is at the rearmost end of the print medium and is performing printing onto an area including a portion of the print area and a portion of the separable discard area.

12. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a print medium to be supplied to a printing apparatus having feeding means for feeding the print medium accommodated in an accommodating portion to a transporting passage facing a printing means and a separation means disposed at a downstream side of the feeding means, for separating the print medium fed by the feeding means from a stack of print media accommodated in the accommodating portion, the printing apparatus transporting the print medium fed by the feeding means along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a distance from the separation means to a contact portion of the print medium on which the feeding means contacts the print medium; and

forming a print medium to include a print area on which to print a desired image, and a separable discard area provided in at least a front end portion of the print medium, with a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion being greater than the distance from the separation means to the contact portion of the print medium on which the feeding means contacts the print medium determined in said determining step,


wherein the printing medium is formed such that both of the separation means and the feeding means are in contact with the separable discard area when the separation means contacts the front end of the print medium fed by the feeding means.

13. (Currently amended) A method of using a print medium to be supplied to a printing apparatus having feeding means for feeding the print medium accommodated in an accommodating portion to a transporting passage facing a printing means and a separation means disposed at a downstream side of the feeding means, for separating the print medium fed by the feeding means from a stack of the print media accommodated in the accommodating portion, the printing apparatus transporting the print medium fed by the feeding means along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a distance from the separation means to a contact portion of the print medium on which the feeding means contacts the print medium; and

selecting a print medium that includes a print area on which to print a desired image, and a separable discard area provided in at least a front end portion of the print medium, with a width of the discard area provided in the front end portion being greater than the distance from the separation means to the contact portion of the print medium on which the feeding means contacts the print medium determined in said determining step, so that both of the separation means and the feeding means will be brought into contact with the separable discard area when the separation means contacts the front end of the print medium fed by the feeding means.

14. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 1, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

 15. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 14, wherein the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area, going beyond the line of perforation.

16. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 2, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

17. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 3, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

18. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 4, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

19. (Previously presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.


20. (Currently amended) A printing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area, going beyond the line of perforation.

21. (Previously presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

22. (Previously presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

23. (Previously presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

 25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area, going beyond the line of perforation.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein a line of perforation is formed at a boundary between the print area and the separable discard area of the print medium.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein the printing means forms an image which continues from the print area to a portion of the separable discard area, going beyond the line of perforation.

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